

April 18, 2011



“HOT BILLS”

SB 7 and SB 630 (Lightford, D-Maywood) both contain provisions for educational reform. The current statutory provisions would be changed for teacher tenure, the use of seniority in teacher hiring, layoffs, and recall, tenured teacher dismissal, and collective bargaining/teacher strikes. The bills also contain a requirement for school board member training. A comprehensive overview of the bills can be found at: <http://www.iasb.com/govrel/sb7analysis.pdf>

SB 79 (Steans, D-Chicago) establishes a State Charter School Commission as an independent State agency with statewide chartering jurisdiction and authority.

SB 150 (Raoul, D-Chicago) is substantially similar to HB 200 regarding school districts adopting a policy relating to concussions among student athletes.

SB 628 (Collins, D-Chicago) extends the school year from 183 days to 192 days, and extends the school day from 5 clock hours to 6 clock hours. No appropriation accompanies the bill.

SB 1578 (Holmes, D-Aurora) provides that of the four yearly teacher institute days, two days may be used as a teacher's and educational support personnel (ESP) workshop. It provides that ESPs may be exempt from a workshop if it is not relevant to the work they do and it is not related to the health and safety of students.

SB 1619 (Steans) provides that if an elementary or secondary public school offers sex education or sexual health education, it must be medically accurate and developmentally and age appropriate and requires the ISBE to provide resource materials for the curriculum. If a school district does not currently provide sex education, this bill does not require it and that if such instruction is offered, the district may choose and adapt the curriculum that meets the specific needs of its community.

SB 1643 (Sullivan, D-Rushville) provides that a school district may increase its driver education course fee to an amount not to exceed \$250 (from \$50) by school board resolution following a public hearing on the increase.

SB 1645 (Maloney, D-Chicago) makes changes to the Freedom of Information Act to allow a public body to respond to a vexatious request for records within 21 working days (instead of 5 business days) and adds other flexibility regarding the time, cost, and burden of such requests.

SB 1744 (Luechtefeld, R-Okawville) regarding State aid formula provisions, removes provisions allowing days of attendance to be less than 5 clock hours on the opening and closing of the school term, and upon the first day of pupil attendance.

SB 1826 (Schoenberg, D-Evanston) authorizes the state comptroller to create, administer, manage, and operate a supplemental employee deferral plan to supplement and enhance the retirement income of employees of public school districts and community colleges. The bill is permissive for school districts and employees.

SB 1932 (Murphy, R-Palatine) creates the Illinois School Choice Program for CPS students in grades K-7. For students in a Chicago elementary school that is ranked within the lowest 10% of school in the district in terms of the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards on the ISAT, they may apply for a voucher from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in the amount of up to Chicago's State share of the per pupil foundation level. This voucher then can be used at any non-public school in Chicago.

SB 2134 (Garrett, D-Lake Forest) encourages the Regional Office of Education to offer school districts the opportunity to participate in shared operational programs and for school districts to explore new ways to consolidate services and programs with other school districts. The bill also requires school districts to complete a one-page checklist along with the annual financial report to disclose which types of shared service options they may be participating in.

SB 2149 (Sullivan) creates the Financial Oversight Panel (FOP) Law of the School Code to allow a school district to petition the ISBE for the establishment of an FOP. For a comprehensive analysis of the bill, go to: <http://www.iasb.com/govrel/sb2149andhb3108analysis.pdf>

SB 2279 (Raoul) extends the expiration date (by 10 years) for which a person who has retired under TRS may work for a TRS employer for 120 days, instead of 100 days. The provision to allow retirees to work for 120 days was due to "sunset" in 2011. The bill moves the date back to 2021.

HB 139 (Ford, D-Chicago) requires that a remedial summer school program for students who have performed below grade level for two consecutive years must place an emphasis on reading and mathematics.

HB 200 (Cross, R-Oswego) requires school boards to adopt a policy that is in compliance with the Illinois High School Association's (IHSA) protocol regarding student athletes suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury. Information on the district policy must be provided to student athletes and their parents and the IHSA must provide concussion information to the school district for distribution to coaches, athletes, and parents.

HB 1204 (Howard, D-Chicago) requires school districts to provide instruction in violence prevention and conflict resolution education for grades kindergarten through 12 (rather than grades 4 through 12).

HB 1216 (Chapa La Via, D-Aurora) would establish a "School District Realignment and Consolidation Commission". The commission includes one member from each of the Alliance organizations (IASB, IASA, IPA, IASBO).

HB 1466 (McAsey, D-Lockport) requires a school district to include in the age-appropriate curriculum topics regarding the appropriate use of electronic communication devices, the risks and consequences of dissemination and transmission of sexually explicit images and video.

HB 1571 (Mayfield, D-Waukegan) provides that each school board shall require at least 60 minutes of reading instruction per day for any student whose reading level is one grade level or lower than his or her current grade level according to current learning standards and the school district.

HB 1600 (Ford) creates the Artificial Trans Fat Restriction Act. It provides that beginning on January 1, 2013, no food containing artificial trans fat may be served by a food facility or used in the preparation of food within a food facility, however, the definition of "food facility" no longer includes entities operated by a school district. It does prohibit food containing artificial trans fat to be made available in a vending machine operated by a public school district.

HB 1670 (Burke, K., D-Oak Lawn) requires elected officials (including school board members) to successfully complete the training program provided by the Public Access Counselor regarding the Open Meetings Act.

HB 2086 (Davis, M., D-Chicago) states that a student must not be denied into an alternative school because of expulsion.

HB 2842 (Verschoore, D-Rock Island) requires all new school buses put into service on or after January 1, 2014 to be equipped with fire retardant seating which has passed federal standards. It also requires all plastic components in the engine compartment of a school bus to pass national standards.

HB 2984 (Sosnowski, R-Belvidere) creates the Tuition Voucher Program Task Force to study the feasibility of a statewide tuition voucher program. The task force will include two representatives from the Alliance.

HB 3131 (Pihos, R-Glen Ellyn) provides that any required agenda under the Open Meetings Act must be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the items that will be considered or will be the subject of final action at the meeting. It requires the public body conducting a public meeting to ensure that at least one copy of any requested notice and agenda for the meeting is continuously available for public review during the entire 48-hour period preceding the meeting.

HB 3171 (Cavaletto, R-Salem) adds the position of Assistant Principal in the School Code to assist the principal in the performance of various duties and responsibilities.

HB 3222 (Stephens, R-Highland) provides that a chief school business official endorsement shall be affixed to the administrative certificate of any holder who qualifies by having a Master's Degree in Public Administration from a regionally accredited higher education institution.

HB 3375 (McCarthy, D-Orland Park) disallows multiple annuitants, without impairing their retirement status, from accepting employment with a school district as a group (for example, the hiring of two interim superintendents), without first receiving an exemption from the Teachers' Retirement System because of a claim of a shortage of administrators available for the position.

HB 3474 (May, D-Highland Park) requires employers participating in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), including school districts, to post the total compensation package of employees making more than \$75,000 per year. It provides that if a new IMRF hire is receiving a retirement annuity or pension and accepts a contractual position to provide services to a governmental entity from which he or she has retired, then that person's annuity or pension will be suspended during that contractual service. It would make it a Class A misdemeanor for a pensioner who is seeking contractual employment to fail to notify certain persons about his or her retirement status before accepting an employment contract. The bill applies the 6% salary cap (now in place in TRS) to IMRF.

HB 3539 (Morrison, R-Palatine) eliminates the "hold harmless" provision of the State aid formula.

The "Hot Bills" list is written and edited by the lobbyists of the Illinois Association of School Boards to provide information to the members of the organizations that comprise the Statewide School Management Alliance.

Alliance Legislative Reports:
Bill Text/Status: Illinois General Assembly

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